

Grade 5 opinion writing rubric

Adapt the descriptors to the writing standards your school uses. Score each criterion from 1 to 4.

Criterion	Beginning (1)	Developing (2)	Proficient (3)	Advanced (4)
Opinion	Opinion is missing or unclear.	States an opinion but loses it in places.	States a clear opinion in the introduction and keeps it throughout.	States a precise opinion and returns to it with purpose in every paragraph.
Reasons and evidence	Reasons are missing or not connected to the opinion.	Gives one reason, or reasons without support.	Gives at least two reasons, each supported by a fact or example.	Gives strong reasons with well-chosen facts or examples and explains how they support the opinion.
Organization	Ideas are in no clear order.	Some grouping of ideas; few linking words.	Groups ideas in paragraphs and uses linking words such as "because" and "for example".	Organizes ideas logically with varied linking words that guide the reader.
Conclusion	No conclusion.	Ends abruptly or repeats one sentence.	Ends with a statement that sums up the opinion.	Ends with a conclusion that sums up and leaves the reader with a final thought.
Conventions	Many errors make the writing hard to read.	Several errors, some confusing.	Few errors in spelling, capitalization and punctuation, none that confuse the reader.	Almost no errors; punctuation used to add clarity.

Student self-assessment: circle the level you think you reached for each criterion, then write one goal for your next piece.

Total: _____ / 20